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stationary dog means on the flitch table for engaging and retaining the tapered flitch with its outermost veneer producing surface substantially parallel to the veneer-slicing knife, and

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the stationary dog means includes a plurality of stationary dogs extending orthogonally from the flitch table, each stationary dog having at least one annular knife edge for engaging a flitch.

3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein each stationary dog further includes means for adjusting the orthogonal extension of the stationary dog relative to the flitch table.

NO CLAIMS

5.
6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the flitch table includes a longitudinal axis, an axially extending channel, and a pusher bar movably disposed in the channel for axial movement therein.

6.
7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the means for moving includes driving means for axially moving the pusher bar in the channel and at least one pusher pin coupled to the pusher bar for movement therewith.

7.
8. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the pusher pin extends orthogonally from the pusher bar and includes means for adjusting the orthogonal extension of the pusher pin from the pusher bar.

8.
9. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the driving means includes at least one piston and cylinder assembly coupled to the pusher bar for moving the flitch into engagement with the stationary dog means.

9.
10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the driving means includes a second piston and cylinder assembly coupled to the pusher bar for moving the flitch out of engagement with the stationary dog means.

10.
11. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the moving means comprises means for engaging one or more surfaces of the flitch and means for moving the flitch along its longitudinal axis into engagement with the stationary dog means so that the stationary dog means holds the flitch on the flitch table.

11.
12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the means for engaging one or more surfaces of the flitch ~~comprise push pin means includes a plurality of pusher~~

pins, coupled to the flitch table, for engaging the flitch.

12.
13. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the stationary dog means and the moving means comprise a modular assembly and the flitch table includes a modular assembly-receiving portion configured to receive the modular assembly.

13.
14. A method of retaining a flitch on a flitch table for slicing veneer from the flitch, the flitch table having a plurality of stationary pin dogs, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a flitch having a first plurality of holes for receiving the plurality of stationary pin dogs,

positioning the plurality of stationary dogs in the first plurality of holes, and

moving the flitch generally longitudinally into engagement with the dogs to retain the flitch on the flitch table.

14.
15. The method of claim 14 wherein the moving step includes the step of providing a plurality of pusher pins and the flitch includes a second plurality of holes for receiving the plurality of pusher pins.

15.
16. The method of claim 15 wherein the moving step further includes the step of providing means for moving the pusher pins to move the flitch along a longitudinal axis of the flitch into engagement with the stationary dogs.

16.
17. The method of claim 14 further including the step of [providing a modular assembly] for positioning

the plurality of stationary dogs and for moving the flitch into engagement with the dogs to mount the flitch on the modular assembly, the modular assembly being removably received by the flitch table.

Rule 17c
^{17.}
18. The method of claim ¹⁷ wherein the flitch table includes means for retaining the modular assembly in position for slicing veneer from the flitch mounted on the modular assembly.

^{18.}
19. An apparatus for retaining a flitch on a reciprocating flitch table, comprising:

a flitch table for carrying the flitch including a plurality of holes formed in a flitch mounting surface,

a plurality of dogs attached to the flitch table and positioned to be received by a first group of the plurality of holes for engaging the flitch, and

a plurality of pusher pins attached to the flitch table and positioned to be received by a second group of the plurality of holes for moving the flitch into engagement with the plurality of dogs to retain the flitch on the flitch table for reciprocation past a veneer slicing knife.

^{19.}
20. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the plurality of pusher pins include a second plurality of dogs.

^{20.}
21. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the flitch table includes a modular flitch-carrying assembly, the modular flitch-carrying assembly including the plurality of dogs, the plurality of pusher pins, and means for removably coupling the modular assembly to the flitch table.

21.
22. An apparatus for retaining a flitch for slicing comprising:

a flitch table having a plurality of predetermined positions, and

a plurality of knife edges located at the predetermined positions for engaging the flitch to retain the flitch on the flitch table,

wherein the number of knife edges engaging the flitch at a predetermined position is generally proportional to the thickness of the flitch at the predetermined position.

22.
23. An apparatus for retaining a flitch for movement past a veneer-slicing knife, the apparatus comprising:

a flitch table for moving the flitch past the veneer-slicing knife for slicing veneer; and

a modular assembly for retaining the flitch, the modular assembly being removably attached to the flitch table for slicing veneer from the flitch and removable from the flitch table for replacing the flitch.

23.
24. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the modular assembly includes a plurality of pin dogs and a plurality of pusher pins for moving the flitch into engagement with the pin dogs.

24.
25. The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the modular assembly further includes driving means for driving the pusher pins to move the flitch into engagement with the pin dogs.

25.
26. A modular assembly for retaining a flitch, the assembly comprising:

a flitch-carrying body;
a plurality of stationary pin dogs carried
by the flitch-carrying body; and
means for moving a flitch carried by said
flitch-carrying body into engagement with the
stationary pin dogs, and
means for coupling the flitch-carrying body
to a veneer slicer.

26.

27. The modular assembly of claim 26 wherein the
moving means includes a pusher bar and at least one
pusher pin coupled to the pusher bar.

27.

28. The modular assembly of claim 27 wherein the
veneer slicer includes a flitch table having channel
means for receiving the flitch-carrying body.

28.

29. The modular assembly of claim 26 wherein the
veneer slicer includes a staylog, the
staylog including means for removably retaining the
flitch-carrying body.

29.

30. A method of retaining a flitch on a veneer
slicer, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a modular assembly including a
plurality of pin dogs for retaining a flitch and means
for moving the flitch into engagement with the pin
dogs;

positioning a flitch on the modular
assembly, the flitch including a plurality of holes
for receiving the pin dogs;

actuating the moving means to move the
flitch into engagement with the pin dogs to retain the
flitch on the modular assembly; and

coupling the modular assembly to the veneer slicer.

31. The method of claim 30 wherein the veneer slicer includes a staylog.

~~32. The method of claim 31 wherein the flitch includes a further plurality of holes, and the moving means includes a plurality of pusher pins received in the further plurality of holes.~~

~~33. The method of claim 30 wherein the flitches moved in the direction of its longitudinal axis by the moving means.~~

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